REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Specification

In paragraph 3 of the office action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure. In response, the Applicant has amended the specification as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 5, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9, 13, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibashi in view of Buddhikot. In paragraph 18, the Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibashi-Buddhikot in view of Le Roux. In paragraph 20, the Examiner rejected claims 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishibashi-Buddhikot in view of Swallow. In paragraph 22, the Examiner objected to claims 12 and 14 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

The rejections of claims 1-11, 13, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are improper because Buddhikot and the claimed invention were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. The Applicant respectfully submits therefore that the rejections of claims 1-11, 13, and 15-17 under Section 103(a) have been overcome. The Applicant submits further that claims 1-11, 13, and 15-17 are allowable over the cited references.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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